United Nations CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Concluding observations on the initial report of Uganda*

1. IntroductionThe Committee considered the initial report of Uganda (CRPD/C/UGA/1) at its 248th and 249th meetings (see CRPD/C/SR.248 and 249), held on 7 and 8 April 2016. It adopted the present concluding observations at its 262nd meeting, held on 18 April 2016.

2. The Committee welcomes the initial report of Uganda, which was prepared in accordance with the Committee's reporting guidelines, and thanks the State party for its written replies (CRPD/C/UGA/Q/1/Add.1) to the list of issues prepared by the Committee (CRPD/C/UGA/Q/1)

II. Positive aspects

3. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State party to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including the reservation of five seats in Parliament to persons with disabilities, and the provision of a special grant for persons with disabilities to support income-generating activities for persons with disabilities.

III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

A. General principles and obligations (arts. 1-4)

4. The Committee is concerned about the varying definitions of disability throughout its legislation, that legislation and policies are not in line with the Convention, and the delay in the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014, as well as of several bills that would advance the rights of persons with disabilities enshrined in the Convention. It also notes with concern that derogatory language against persons with disabilities persists in legislation and policies of the State party, such as the terms "unsound mind" and "lunacy".

* Adopted by the Committee at its fifteenth session (29 March-21 April 2016).

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5. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Harmonize definitions of disability in various laws and policies and systematically review all legislation and bring it into line with the Convention;**

(b) **Adopt measures to amend and/or repeal legislation with derogatory terminology against persons with disabilities.**

6. The Committee is concerned about the absence of specific mechanisms to ensure a high-level consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities that goes beyond the National Council for Disability. It is also concerned that civil society does not fully participate in processes to enact legislation, and in the discussion and adoption of public policies both at the national and district level, including the involvement of women with disabilities, young people, children with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

7. **The Committee recommends that the State party establish high-level formal mechanisms to conduct consultations with organizations representing persons with disabilities, systematically and on a regular basis, with allocation of budgetary resources, and promote the meaningful participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women with disabilities, young people, children with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.**

B. Specific rights (arts. 5-30)

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

8. The Committee is concerned about persisting discrimination against persons with disabilities, including in particular persons with albinism, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and on other grounds, such as gender identity and sexual orientation. It is also concerned about insufficient legal remedies to protect them against such discrimination. It is further concerned about the non-recognition of reasonable accommodation in the legislation of the State party and that the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission has not been made known widely among persons with disabilities.

9. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Provide for legal protection against disability-based discrimination and multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Incorporate the concept of reasonable accommodation in its legislation as defined in article 2 of the Convention and recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination based on disability;**

(c) **Make the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission widely known among persons with disabilities.**

Women with disabilities (art. 6)

10. The Committee is concerned about the multiple forms of discrimination faced by women with disabilities and the absence of measures to prevent and combat different forms of discrimination, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation against them. It is also concerned about the lack of measures for the development, advancement, and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities.

11. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Adopt a systematic approach to the rights of women and girls with disabilities, mainstream such rights across all laws, policies and programmes and collect data disaggregated by gender and disability;

(b) Take specific measures to tackle multiple and intersectional discrimination against women with disabilities in the State party, particularly women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including through financing, developing and supporting schemes that increase their economic and social independence;

(c) Ensure that gender and disability policies address the situation of women with disabilities and allocate appropriate human, technical and budgetary resources to promote the development, advancement and empowerment of women with disabilities.

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

12. The Committee notes with concern that legislation and policies fail to provide protection for the rights of children with disabilities. It is also concerned about the absence of information on the situation of deaf and deaf-blind children, and about measures to ensure their protection and inclusion in society.

13. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Amend the Children's Act in line with the Convention in order to mainstream rights of children with disabilities across all programmes and provide necessary budget and resources for their protection;

(b) Adopt measures to include deaf and deaf-blind girls and boys in all public policies and programmes to ensure that their opinions and views are taken into consideration;

(c) Implement measures aimed at promoting the right of children with disabilities to be consulted in all matters concerning their lives and at enabling them to receive assistance appropriate to their age and disability.

Awareness-raising (art. 8)

14. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information to make the general public aware of cultural practices that stigmatize and hinder the development of persons with disabilities to enjoy rights like all other persons in society. It is also concerned that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities as well as persons with albinism and deaf-blind persons are disproportionally affected by stigma, which limits their access to education, health and employment.

15. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Increase awareness on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities with the aim of combating disability and gender stereotypes, which can lead to discrimination against persons with disabilities among the public in general, and in particular in rural and urban areas, in all aspects covered by the Convention, through the mass media, jingles, workshops and public information campaigns;

(b) Ensure that human rights-based training programmes, including those organized through international cooperation are provided for all officials, the judiciary, the police, health professionals, teachers and social workers in all communities in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities;

(c) Strengthen efforts to raise awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with albinism, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and deaf-blind persons and ensure the involvement of their representative organizations in any campaign aimed at eliminating stigmatization and myths that underpin violence against them;

(d) Raise awareness among members of the Parliament, the executive and the judiciary with regard to the Convention and ensure their support in implementing the present concluding observations, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Accessibility (art. 9)

16. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The challenges faced by persons with disabilities, both in rural and urban areas, in gaining access to transportation and information in accessible formats such as sign language, Braille and easy-to-read formats for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities;

(b) Insufficient resources to implement government policies and programmes in relation to accessibility, including in the transport sector;

(c) The lack of low-cost information and communications technologies for persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas, the lack of regulation for the implementation of the Public Control Act and about the fact that public procurement requirements do not include accessible standards.

17. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:**

(a) Adopt an action plan to ensure accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications technologies and systems, with adequate resources and a time-bound framework;

(b) Introduce a monitoring mechanism and effective sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility standards in all areas covered by the Convention, including in the transport sector;

(c) Strengthen measures, including public procurement to grant access by persons with disabilities to information and communications technologies, including by the provision of low-cost software and assistive devices for all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas;

(d) Encourage the banking sector to recruit professional sign language interpreters to assist deaf persons in their banking transactions;

(e) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Right to life (art. 10)

18. The Committee is concerned about the violations of the right to life of persons with disabilities in some communities where myths abound that disability is a "curse" leading to harmful consequences to persons with disabilities.

19. **The Committee recommends that the State party raise public awareness on the right to life of persons with disabilities and take legal action against perpetrators.**

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)

20. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of reference to persons with disabilities in the National Policy for Internally Displaced Persons and the non-establishment of the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Commission;

(b) The absence of specific provisions for refugees with disabilities in Northern Uganda through the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan;

(c) The absence of provisions for evacuation of persons with disabilities in emergency situations such as fire outbreaks.

21. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt a national plan to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and also universal accessibility and disability inclusion at all stages and levels of all disaster risk reduction policies and their implementation;**

(b) **Provide information in accessible formats in all languages used in the State party, including Swahili and indigenous and refugee languages as well as sign language, about early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergencies;**

(c) **Monitor, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the implementation of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan to ensure that the requirements of persons with disabilities, including refugees with disabilities, are addressed in post-conflict districts of Northern Uganda;**

(d) **Finalize the draft Uganda national disaster risk reduction and management policy, in close consultation with representatives of persons with disabilities to include provisions for identification and support for persons with disabilities, include persons with disabilities in the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Commission, and consider implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.**

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

22. The Committee is concerned about legislation in the State party, including the Succession Act (2011), the Divorce Act (1904) and the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act 1961, which restrict legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. It is also concerned about the de facto guardianship in families of persons with disabilities that deprive persons with disabilities of their ability to make choices in aspects such as marriage and inheritance.

23. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Eliminate formal and/or informal substituted decision-making regimes and replace them with a system of supported decision-making, in line with article 12 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law;**

(b) **Repeal legislation and eliminate practices that allow for deprivation of legal capacity on the basis of disability and adopt measures to prohibit deprivation of legal capacity on a customary basis;**

(c) **Raise awareness among persons with disabilities, their families and community members, the judiciary and legislature on supported decision-making and**

legal capacity of persons with disabilities, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Access to justice (art. 13)

24. The Committee is concerned about barriers faced by persons with disabilities in the judicial system as a result of lack of reasonable accommodation and accessibility to court buildings, and prejudices, poverty and lack of general knowledge about disability in the justice sector.

25. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to justice, including by establishing free legal aid for persons with disabilities who claim their rights, and information and communication in accessible formats, including in Braille, tactile, augmentative and alternative formats, and Ugandan Sign Language;**

(b) **Ensure that the judiciary provides procedural accommodation according to gender and age for persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Conduct regular training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns and information for court staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement agents including police and prison officials, on the duty to provide access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.**

Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)

26. The Committee is concerned about the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, according to the provisions of the 1971 Trial on Indictments Act and article 23 (1) (f) of the Constitution.

27. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Repeal all constitutional and legal provisions that provide for forced detention on the basis of impairment and involuntary institutionalization of persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Repeal legislative and other provisions that allow for detention of persons with disabilities, and permit indefinite postponement of criminal proceedings while ordering incarceration which unduly discriminate against persons with disabilities and do not allow for fair trial standards on an equal basis with others.**

Freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 15)

28. The Committee is concerned about the information on inhumane and cruel forced medical treatments, physical and chemical restraints, as well as isolation faced by persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, in psychiatric hospitals. It is also concerned about the absence of measures to ensure that persons with disabilities are enabled to provide their free consent to medical or scientific experimentation. It is further concerned about the absence of monitoring by the Uganda Human Rights Commission of centres where persons with disabilities have been deprived of their liberty.

29. **The Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) Investigate cases of physical ill-treatment, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and adopt protocols that guarantee full respect of the human rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) Review and revise the Mental Health Act to ensure compliance with the Convention and ensure that the current Mental Health Bill, 2014, is in compliance with the Convention;

(c) Ban forced hospitalization and forced treatment and other non-consensual practices;

(d) Strengthen the legal mandate and the funding of the Uganda Human Rights Commission to enable it to discharge its mandate of monitoring the centres where persons with disabilities remain deprived of their liberty.

Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)

30. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Cases of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in particular the higher risk of women, girls and boys with disabilities, including deaf-blind women and children, of facing physical and sexual violence both in family settings and in institutions;

(b) Abandonment, malnutrition and exploitation through the use of children with disabilities for begging;

(c) The lack of accessibility of information and services available for women with disabilities, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services and complaints mechanisms;

(d) The absence of mechanisms for monitoring institutions where persons with disabilities have been placed.

31. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Adopt measures to ensure that women with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence have access to both accessible services and information, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services and complaint mechanisms;

(b) Implement legislation and a due diligence framework to combat impunity concerning violence, exploitation and abuse through the opening of investigations and providing for sanctions for perpetrators as well as redress for victims of violence;

(c) Provide training to the police, judiciary, health professionals and other interlocutors to communicate and work effectively with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence;

(d) Set up an independent mechanism to monitor the conditions in all facilities designed to serve persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)

32. The Committee observes with concern that harmful practices and sexual abuse of women with disabilities are based on harmful stereotypes that consider women with disabilities asexual and pure and that suggest that having sexual intercourse with them might cure HIV/AIDS.

33. **The Committee calls upon the State party to:**

(a) **Adopt measures including a clear public statement and campaigns to end harmful practices against women with disabilities, and prosecute perpetrators;**

(b) **Adopt a strategy that includes community associations and organizations of women with disabilities to raise awareness about their rights and dignity and inform victims about available protection mechanisms.**

34. The Committee is concerned about laws that allow forced medical treatment for of persons with disabilities and suchlike practices. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the prevalence of female genital mutilation.

35. **The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all laws and practices allowing or perpetuating forced treatment of persons with disabilities. It recommends that the State party develop alternative modes of medical treatment that respect the dignity, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party criminalize the practice of female genital mutilation.**

Liberty of movement and nationality (art. 18)

36. The Committee expresses concern about the legislation on immigration that denies persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities acquisition of dual citizenship. It is also concerned about the low level of registration of children with disabilities at birth.

37. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Repeal provisions in the Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control Act (2009) and the Immigration Act (1970) that restrict the right to movement and liberty and acquisition of citizenship of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities;**

(b) **Ensure registration of all children with disabilities at birth.**

Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)

38. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of institutionalization of persons with disabilities and the absence of community support services that provide for inclusion of persons with disability in society. It is also concerned about the marginalization of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, from everyday life due to lack of provision of essential services.

39. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt a strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, within a time frame and with indicators;**

(b) **Provide essential community-based services, including accessibility to education, health care, employment and accommodation, and personal assistance to guarantee independent living for persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas;**

(c) **Provide grants to persons with disabilities to facilitate independent living in the community covering support for assistive devices, guides, sign language interpreters and affordable skin-care protection for persons with albinism.**

Personal mobility (art. 20)

40. The Committee is concerned about barriers hindering personal mobility of persons with disabilities.

41. **The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the enactment of the draft rehabilitation and health-care policy on disability, in line with the Convention, and ensure all appropriate provisions and a public budget for mobility requirements of persons with disabilities.**

Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (art. 21)

42. The Committee is concerned about the lack of public information in Braille and of sign language interpreters, the non-recognition of Ugandan Sign Language as legally enforceable, the lack of trained teachers in sign language, tactile communication, easy-read teaching material and Braille to make it beneficial to persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the inaccessibility of websites, the absence of easy-to-read information and the inability of television stations to provide information in accessible formats for deaf persons and persons with visual impairments.

43. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Take measures to recognize Ugandan Sign Language as an official language with enforceable duties in the State party, improve access to information through, inter alia, Brailling public information, increasing the number of sign language interpreters and recognizing that deaf persons have a substantive right to use Ugandan Sign Language as an official language, train teachers in sign language, tactile communication, Braille and easy-to-read formats;**

(b) **Require television stations to provide news and programmes of national importance in accessible formats, in particular for deaf persons.**

(c) **Ensure that government websites and websites targeting the public are accessible to persons who require easy-to-read texts, and ensure that owners and designers of websites make them accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly persons with visual impairment;**

(d) **Invest significant resources in training of sign language interpreters and introduce a certification system, particularly in rural areas, to ensure greater availability and enhanced quality of sign language interpretation in public services, and develop a sign language dictionary.**

Respect for privacy (art. 22)

44. The Committee is concerned about the lack of provision of sign language interpreters and information in accessible formats in the health and banking sectors.

45. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the protection of personal data of persons with disabilities in protocols in the health and banking sectors.**

Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

46. The Committee is concerned about the legislation that infringes the right to marry of persons with disabilities, such as the Divorce Act (1904) and the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act 1961. It is further concerned about the absence of information on sexual and reproductive health and family planning for persons with disabilities due to lack of accessible formats, means and modes of information, negative attitudes, myths and stereotypes against them.

47. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Repeal discriminatory provisions of the marriage and divorce acts and guarantee persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, regardless of their legal capacity status, the right to marry and to adopt on an equal basis with others;

(b) Enact legislation which prohibits the separation of children from their parents on the basis of the disability of either the child or one or both of the parents;

(c) Ensure support to families with persons with disabilities for raising their children at home;

(d) Ensure access to information, in appropriate formats, to persons with disabilities on sexual and reproductive health and family planning.

Education (art. 24)

48. **The Committee is concerned about:**

(a) The promotion of segregated educational institutions in the State party over an inclusive education system;

(b) The lack of adequately trained teachers to promote inclusive education at all levels of the education system;

(c) The inability of schools to meet the accessibility requirements of children with disabilities and the non-admission of children with severe disabilities;

(d) The absence of statistical data on learners with disabilities disaggregated by age, gender and disability type.

49. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Expedite taking action, establish a time frame for the transition process from segregated to inclusive education and ensure that budgetary, technical and professional resources are available to complete the process and collect disaggregated data on the advancement of the inclusive education system;

(b) Ensure the accessibility to school facilities for all students with disabilities, including deaf-blind children, provide materials and curricula adequate to their requirements and generally take measures to prevent non-admission of children with disabilities in the education system;

(c) Take measures including by encouraging public/private partnerships to ensure the provision of individualized accessible information and communications technology and assistive technologies in education;

(d) Undertake a comprehensive review of the teacher training curriculum at all levels of education and provide mandatory training on inclusive education in core curricula of teachers both pre- and in-service to provide for disability awareness, inclusive education pedagogy, sign language, Braille, easy-to-read material and tactile communication training for all professionals;

(e) Develop a database on learners with disabilities to identify and provide specific learning aids;

(f) Pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Health (art. 25)

50. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on accessible health-care facilities for persons with disabilities, and the absence of measures to ensure that

information and services on sexual and reproductive rights are accessible. It is also concerned about the non-inclusion of persons with albinism in the State party's cancer policy denying them access to skin cancer treatment to prevent skin damage as well as the non-availability of essential drugs for persons with mental health conditions in health centres across the country, especially in rural areas.

51. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Provide mandatory training on the rights of persons with disabilities to all health-care staff;**

(b) **Train and recruit professional guides and sign language interpreters to assist persons with disabilities in health centres;**

(c) **Include persons with albinism in the State party's cancer policy and ensure the availability of essential drugs in health centres across the country for persons with mental health conditions, including those of level II, especially in rural areas;**

(d) **Adopt measures to ensure that all education, information, health care and services relating to sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, including treatment, advice and counselling, are made accessible to persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, in age-appropriate formats in both urban and rural areas.**

Work and employment (art. 27)

52. The Committee is concerned about the few opportunities open for employment for persons with disabilities, in particular young men and women with disabilities, as well as the dismissal of persons who acquire an impairment in the course of their employment. It is also concerned about the lack of provisions to ensure persons with disabilities have equal pay for work of equal value.

53. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt a strategy and incentive measures to facilitate access to the open labour market to persons with disabilities, in particular young men and women, including through the provision of training, and accessible information on job vacancies, and ensure that persons with disabilities receive equal pay for work of equal value;**

(b) **Take measures to ensure accessible and adapted workplaces in the open labour market, including provision of reasonable accommodation regardless of disability;**

(c) **Pay attention to the links between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Adequate standard of living and social protection (art. 28)

54. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures and specific schemes to provide social protection for persons with disabilities in employment and out of employment. It is also concerned about the lack of coverage of the national health insurance in relation to persons with disabilities.

55. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Provide social protection schemes to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, and develop and implement compensation schemes**

for persons with disabilities to meet disability-related extra expenses incurred, for example, for assistive devices, technologies and personal assistance;

(b) **Include persons with disabilities in relevant social and health insurance schemes;**

(c) **Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Participation in political and public life (art. 29)

56. The Committee is concerned about the restrictions in the Constitution and the electoral law that prevent persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities from standing for election, thus discriminating against them; it is also concerned about the inaccessibility of the voting environment, the absence of electoral materials in accessible formats and the lack of secrecy in the voting process for persons with disabilities.

57. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Repeal discriminatory legal provisions that restrict persons with disabilities from exercising their right to stand for election;**

(b) **Provide voter education and awareness to persons with disabilities and adopt measures to ensure that the electoral process is accessible to voters with disabilities including voter registration, accessible polling centres and materials and assistance to vote from persons of their choice;**

(c) **Inform persons with disabilities about their right to vote and provide financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities to conduct the election processes of persons with disabilities in a transparent manner.**

Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (art. 30)

58. The Committee notes that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

59. **The Committee recommends that the State party take all steps necessary to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.**

C. Specific obligations (arts. 31-33)

Statistics and data collection (art. 31)

60. The Committee is concerned about the lack of systems to collect information on the situation of persons with disabilities, including refugees.

61. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Systematically facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data about persons with disabilities and the barriers they face;**

(b) **Pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

International cooperation (art. 32)

62. The Committee is concerned about the lack of mainstreaming of disability rights, as enshrined in the Convention, in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, the Committee observes that

organizations of persons with disabilities have not been consulted in the design of international cooperation projects and programmes.

63. **The Committee recommends that disability rights, as enshrined in the Convention, be mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and these processes are undertaken in close cooperation and involvement with organizations of persons with disabilities.**

National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)

64. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a strategy on the National Council for Disability to coordinate public policies in all areas covered by the Convention and that focal points have not been designated in all branches of government. It is also concerned about the insufficient resources given to the Uganda Human Rights Commission to fulfil its obligations as an independent monitoring body. It is further concerned at the absence of specific mechanisms for the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities and civil society in the entire process of monitoring the Convention, as set out in its article 33 (3).

65. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Expedite the process of appointing focal points within ministries and other government bodies, with sufficient funding, to enhance implementation of the provisions of the Convention and ensure accountability of government departments to mainstream rights of persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Strengthen the capacity of the Uganda Human Rights Commission with sufficient budgetary allocation and human resources to fulfil its mandate effectively and ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process, including by providing the necessary funding.**

Cooperation and technical assistance

66. In accordance with article 37 of the Convention, the Committee can provide technical guidance to the State party on any queries addressed to the experts via the secretariat. The State party can also seek technical assistance from United Nations specialized agencies with offices in the country or the region.

IV. Follow-up

Dissemination of information

67. The Committee requests that the State party provide information, within 12 months of the adoption of the present concluding observations and in accordance with article 35 (2) of the Convention, on the measures taken to implement the Committee's recommendations contained in paragraphs 8 (equality and non-discrimination) and 52 (work and employment).

68. The Committee requests the State party to implement the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. It recommends that the State party transmit the concluding observations for consideration and action to members of the Government and parliament, officials in relevant ministries, organizations of persons with disabilities and members of relevant professional groups, such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to local authorities and the media, using modern social communication strategies.

69. The Committee strongly encourages the State party to involve civil society organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of its periodic report.

Next periodic report

70. The Committee requests the State party to submit its combined second, third and fourth reports by 25 October 2022, and to include in them information on the implementation of the present concluding observations. The Committee also requests the State party to consider submitting the above-mentioned reports under the Committee's simplified reporting procedure, according to which the Committee prepares a list of issues at least one year prior to the due date set for the report of a State party. The replies of a State party to such a list of issues constitute its report.